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"MY FRIENDS"

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A Gireside Chat on the War

by

NATIVE SON

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WE MUST DIE

If we must die-let it not be like hogs Making their mock at our accursed lot. While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot

So that our precious blood may not be shed If we must die-oh, let us nobly die Shall be constrained to honor us though de In vain; then even the monsters we defy

And for their thousand blows deal one death-blow! Though far outnumbered, let us still be brave, Oh, Kinsmen! We must meet the common foe; Pressed to the wall, dying, but-fighting back! Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly p What though before us lies the open grave? - Claude McKay

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WORKERS PART

114 WEST 14th STREET, NEW June

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A Fireside Chat on the Wax As Milion BY MATINE SOIL

MY FRIENDS

voice of the working man should be heard. The President governs for all, the priests pray for all man and the farmers who are placed in the front war he pays in blood. It is always the working In times of peace he pays in labor and in sweat. In the soldiers fight for all, (so, at any rate, we are lines and direct. I have been to war and I know. line trenches. The sons of the rich stay behind the old) but it is the working man who pays for all In this moment of crisis, it is proper that the

son, as American as any white man in this country. My people were here as early as the family of east. I am a black working man, but I am a native helped to make this country what it is. We have President Roosevelt. We Negroes have labored and tucks, a Negro, was the first American to die innds dence to the first World War. In fact Crispus Atfought in all its wars, from the War of Indepen-That is why I claim the privilege of a broad-

mand my right to be hear all sitting down listening a fireside chat. You are all sitting down listening to me and I am Jung down talking to you. You know it, I know it, everybody knows it. But in order to make you feel that you will be getting the real inside dope in a confidential manner, I shall begin by saying: "My friends, let us sit down, you and I, and talk this thing over together." That piece of baloney being out of the way, we can now get down to business.

Is America in Danger?

The President says that Hitler seems to be winning the European war, and for that reason, this country is in danger of being invaded. Maybe the country is really in danger. But from the start this whole invasion business seemed phoney to me. I went to France in the last war, and I saw what it takes to carry a million men across the Atlantic and to keep them there. Germany is very near to England. Yet everybody says that Hitler had to capture Norway and the Channel ports and get within a few miles of England in order to attempt a successful invasion. Who is such a fool as to believe that Hitler can transport millions of men and all

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try, across nearly 3,000 miles of sea? The Yanke Clipper takes only 20 passengers at a time. How many clippers will Hitler need to land a million men in America? Hitler would have to spend years in preparation before he could invade this country. Furthermore, the President knows that all this talk about invasion is just a lot of hooey. My wife Leonora, who is a Red, told me that the other day the generals of the army and navy made an official statement that this country was in no danger of invasion. And if they know that, and I know it, the President knows it too.

When I said to some of my friends, poor trembling Negroes, that they had many things to worry about but that invasion was not one of them, they asked me, "But do you think that the President is lying? Why should he lie? He only wants to protect the people." My friends, and particularly my young friends, let me show you how a President can lie. I went to hear President Wilson speak in 1916. He said that we must vote for him because he was the man who had kept us out of war. And as soon as he had won the elections he carried out the plan he had had in his pocket for almost a year before the elections, and we were in the war before you could wink. Since that time, my friends,

w how Presidents can lie. Wilson wanted to the use in and he used one jive. Roosevelt wants to get us in and he is using another one. He wants to highten us with the fear of invasion, although own generals and admirals tell us the exact

Defend What Democracy?

opposite.

My friends, why does the President want us to fight? He and all the writers in the papers say that it is to defend our democracy. Our democracy! My friends, when I heard that I laughed for racy! My friends, when I heard that if I didn't was because I was so damned mad that if I didn't laugh I would have broken the radio. And that radio cost me \$4 in the pawn shop and I didn't

Tell me, Mr. President, what democracy do I Tell me, Mr. President, what democracy do I defend by going to fight Hitler? Hitler is a vile defend by going to fight Hitler? Hitler is a vile criminal and should be driven off the face of the criminal and should be driven off the face of the criminal and should be driven off the democracy and the democracy all those who have been taking away democracy all those who have been taking away democracy all from me and my people. They are Cotton Ed from the and my people. They are Cotton Ed for them aided by you, President Roosevelt for all of them aided by you, President Roosevelt for all of you are in one Party together, the Democratic

a stop to it. I never heard any fireside chat from dogs. They were doing all this before Hitler was children, treating us worse than they treat their giving us the dirtiest jobs, at the lowest pay, Jim another. There are thousands of others I could who discriminates against Negroes in his unions is president of the American Federation of Labor American Hitlers from the South. William Green Party with these Negro-hating, Negro-baiting little and pay attention to the crimes against democracy drels who rule this country with you, should stop carried out by the Senate to give the American you, Mr. President, I never saw any campaign Hitler is dead, unless we Negroes ourselves put born, they do it now, they will do it long after Crowing us, taking the taxes we pay to teach white name. They have been lynching me and my people at home. Instead, your newspapers spread a lot of being so active in defense of democracy abroad fireside chat, that you and the hypocritical scoun-May I tell you Mr. President, politely as suits a which prevents Negroes in the South from voting lynching bill or abolish Jim Crow, and the poll tax Negroes democracy, for instance; to pass the antilies about no lynchings having taken place duruldn't be working so closely in the same and if you were any friend of the N

ne past year. As if they don't know that need a days the Southern lynchers get together in ants II bands and murder any Negro whom they want to get rid of, very quietly so as to keep it out of the papers.

The Fifth Column

fifth column. I understand that this is the new 3 the President's eyes been all this time? If he wants name for the enemies of democracy. Where have to find out who these fifth column people are, he ident sends a reporter to me, with a large notespend our lives fighting against them. If the Presjust has to ask the Negroes. We know them. We down tomorrow I'll point out to him more fifth book, I guarantee that between sunrise and suncolumn enemies of democracy then he can find room for in all the jails of this country. No, Mr. President, we'll begin to listen to you about the the really big enemies of democracy in this country, fifth column when you begin to put in jail some of beginning with the United States Vice-President Jack Garner, boss of the Jim Crow state of Texas My friends, the President warns us about the My friends, the President and all the papers

My friends, the President and all the Papers say that we must stop aggression. But when Mussolini made his aggression against Ethiopia, you, Mr.

country themselves. drive out all these leeches and take charge of their from America. They will get none from Japan. They will get some democracy only when they from the Dutch. They will get no democracy it is not democracy. I have no interests in the Dutch whatever President Roosevelt wants to fight about, East Indies. The natives there got no democracy makes sense to me. But what I know is this, that trade with China and Spanish America. That keep Germany as much as possible out of the fat taking the colonies of the Allied countries, and to America wants to fight Germany to prevent Hitler My wife Leonora, who is a Red, tells me that fleet ready to fight Japan for the Dutch East Indies. opia. Where was all your hatred of aggression the But I notice that today you have the American their cut, prevented us from sending arms ... and

Democracy Begins at Home

My friends, it is not only the poor Negroes who get no democracy. The other day I saw a picture, "The Grapes of Wrath." In it I saw whites, miserable and suffering almost as much as we Negroes suffer. Every week outside the relief station there are whites standing with me, no better off than I am. If these poor Okies and the Negroes and the

am willing to begin. I know who my enemies are. And when these same enemies come telling me about going to fight against Hitler, what I tell them in my mind is what would be very out of place in a fireside chat, so you will have to guess at it.

democracy here, then we can give Hitler a beating. against Hitler. I have been watching that school erals all urging poor people to come and fight I would be ready to fight against Hitler then If he wants to die for democracy and his \$35, that week he gets for teaching in the Jim Crow school wants to defend is not democracy but the \$35 a teacher a long time. And I think that what he the Belgian people. That is what you get when Now he has surrendered to Hitler and next thing gians to come and fight with him for democracy. you listen to these Kings and Presidents and Genhe will be helping Hitler to impose fascism on we must fight with Roosevelt to defeat Hitler: I King of Belgium. He must have told the poor Beltime or other wouldn't turn traitor? Look at the want to see Hitler defeated but why should I trust Roosevelt? How do I know that Roosevelt at some I know a Negro school teacher who says that business. But he isn't going to lead me into When we have defeated the enemies

Unite and Fight!

who is keeping these things from me. It is those any white man is prepared to join with us to fight for that, I want it for him too. And it isn't Hitler for myself, I want it for all my black people, and if any union or organization that I want. I want this I want, go where I want, eat where I want, join where I choose to have it. I want to travel where neighborhood. I want a good house and I want it want my black children to go to any school in the want a good relief check when I am out of work. I good wages, \$30 a week for 30 hours a week. J What I as a black man want is a steady job. I want It is this. Unite and fight for our democracy here. the American people and the Negroes in particular. prayers and tell you plainly what is my policy for friends, my dear friends, I want to leave out the have guns, battleships and planes. So tonight, my son not only pray to God, but see to it that they full of God too. But Roosevelt, Hitler and Wil-President Wilson, that smooth tongued rascal, was speeches talks about God and asks for his blessing. prayers. But I notice too that Hitler in all his chat always has something in it about God and belief in God. And I notice that a good fireside My friends, Negroes are well known for their

and are robbing, cheating and insulting mole.

night. I shall not quote scripture but I shall end any kind of Indies whatsoever. So, my friends, good Death is death and I prefer to die fighting here shot down by the police but I'll die contented to fight. I may go to jail in that fight. I may get treated like a dog while I was there. I was treated war. I was treated like a dog before I went. I was with a piece of personal history. I went to the last those who will fight with us, than die so that for my rights and the rights of my people and for a sucker before, and I am not going to be like a dog when I returned. I have been played Dutch East Indies or the British West Indies or President Roosevelt and his friends might get the played again. My friends, to win those things I am prepared

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SOCIAL EQUALITY: The right to be free from insult, degradation and proscription.

any job for which the Negro is qualified and to be paid the same wages received by other workers.

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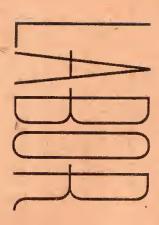
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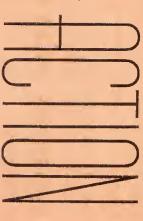
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"Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded"-Karl Marx